

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1680

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, , PINT, GE, GW, WB

SUBJECT: GDR MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRG

REF: USBERLIN 1666

1. GDR'S ACTION IN RELEASING WILLIE BUBBERS MAY HAVE MARKED FIRST STEP IN BACKING AWAY FROM CONFRONTATION, ACCORDING TO CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ. EVENING OF AUGUST 11, HERZ TOLD ALLIED SENAT LIAISON OFFICRS THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO GAUS EARLIER AND LEARNED THAT DURING LATTER'S CALL ON NIER ON AUGUST 9 (REFTEL),GAUS ASKED FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF BUBBERS. THIS WAS REJECTED AND NIER HINTED BUBBERS MIGHT HAVE TO STAND TRIAL. FEW HOURS LATER, HOWEVER, GUAS WAS INFORMED THAT BUBBERS WOULD BE RELEASED. (ACCORDING TO BERLIN PRESS, BUBBERS HAS SAID HE WAS TREATED FAIRLY BY GDR).

2. HERZ BELIEVED (AND THIS MAY ALSO REFLECT JUDGMENT OF GAUS) THAT WHEN EAST GERMANS MADE RELEASE DECISION DURING COURSE OF AUGUST 9, THEY MADE FIRST STEP OF BACKING AWAY FROM CONFRONTATION WITH FRG. HERZ SAID INNER-GERMAN
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AFFAIRS MINISTER FRANKE TALKED TO CDU GENERAL SECRETARY

BIEDENKOPF ON AUGUST 11 TRYING, TO NO AVAIL, TO PERSUADE CDU TO PLAY DOWN ITS JUNGE UNION" STERNFAHRT" TO BERLIN ON AUGUST 13. HERZ FEARED THAT WITH SO MANY YOUNG CDU SUPPORTERS ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES HEADING FOR AN ANTI-WALL RALLY AT THE REICHSTAG EVENING OF AUGUST 13, POTENTIAL FOR INCIDENTS ENROUTE WAS VERY HIGH. (LOCAL PRESS HAD CARRIED FRANKE'S STATEMENT OF AUGUST 11 WARNING THE YOUNG CDU ADHERENTS ABOUT POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS OF STERNFAHRT).

3. IN CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED EFFORT, SOVIETS PROTESTED AUGUST 13 EVENTS PLANNED FOR WEST BERLIN TO US POLAD ON AUGUST 13 (DETAILS FOLLOW BY SEPTEL), WHILE MITDANK OF GDR FONMIN PROTESTED TO SENAT AND BRAUETIGAM OF FRG REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN WAS CALLED IN TO GDR FOMIN TO RECEIVE SIMILAR PROTEST. MITDANK, INCIDENTALLY, TOLD SENAT IN ADVANCE US WOULD RECEIVE PROTEST FROM SOVIETS, AN UNCOMMON BUT NOT UNPRECEDENTED EXAMPLE OF GDR/SOVIET JOINT PLANNING.

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS FROM BERLIN VANTAGE POINT THAT FRG IS TRYING THROUGH FRANKE STATEMENT AND PUBLISHED COMMENTS BY SPD CAUCUS CHIEF WEHNER TO DEMONSTRATE TO GDR THAT WEST GERMANS ALSO WANT TO BACK AWAY FROM A CONFRONTATION.
GEORGE

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